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SPECIAL INSERT

LAFAYETTE VISTAS

COUNCIL PLACES POLICE MEASURE ON NOVEMBER 3RD BALLOT

On November 3rd, voters will decide whether there should be more police patrollers in Lafayette. **Measure "V"** (see box at right) was placed on the ballot by the Lafayette City Council after hearing public testimony at a special Town Hall meeting on public safety in July. The measure, if approved, would levy an annual parcel tax of up to $92 per parcel for three years on all properties in Lafayette. The proceeds could only be used to pay for additional police patrol services. The purpose of this special insert of Lafayette VISTAS is to introduce you to facts about the ballot measure, but not to persuade you to vote for or against the proposal.

If approved by two-thirds of those who vote, Measure V would authorize the City to levy up to but not more than $92 annually on each parcel in Lafayette for three years. The ballot language specifies that the proceeds of the levy can only be used to increase police patrol services in Lafayette, and cannot be used for any other purpose. The money cannot, for instance, be used for general governmental activities such as recreation, planning, engineering, new facilities, or overhead.

Also, to ensure that the proceeds would be used to provide additional patrol services and not to displace current expenditure levels, Measure V requires that the City Council maintain existing funding levels for police services during the term of the tax. In fiscal year 1998-99, the City will spend roughly $1.9 million annually on police services; Measure V proceeds would thus be applied in addition to the $1.9 million annual appropriation.

Finally, Measure V also requires that, during the next three years, the City Council develop long-term options for providing public safety in Lafayette.

Add One Officer Around the Clock

If applied at its maximum allowable rate, Measure V would raise up to $782,000 each year for three years. This would allow the City to add up to one additional patroller per shift, around the clock, seven days a week – the equivalent of six additional officers plus one sergeant. The additional patrol would supplement the City's current "two patroller" minimum staffing level and allow the City to provide a minimum of three patrollers on all shifts.

Annual Public Hearing to Set Rate

The Council has adopted a resolution requiring that, if Measure V passes, the City will hold a public hearing annually to determine the amount of the per parcel tax. If studies and other information show that a smaller patrol force can deliver satisfactory results, the Council could choose to levy a tax amount lower than $92. This annual review would allow the City to adjust the number and scheduling of officers to provide coverage during times when patrol officers are most needed. Following the public hearing, the Council would set the annual parcel tax rate to reflect the City's police patrol needs. The amount, however, in no instance could exceed the $92 per parcel cap.

In arriving at the decision to place Measure V on the ballot the Council considered, in addition to others, the following factors:

- A report of the Contra Costa Sheriff's Department indicating that the average response time to a call for service in Lafayette is 11.6 minutes, which is 60% slower than responses in Orinda or Danville (see chart on page 2);
- A report by the 1998 Contra Costa Grand Jury noting that, when compared to other Contra Costa cities, Lafayette had the fewest officers per citizen. The same Grand Jury report ranked Lafayette among the cities with the lowest in per capita spending for police services (see chart on page 3);
- A petition signed by more than 500 residents requesting a ballot measure for a parcel tax to add patrol officers.

New Revenue Needed if Police Services to Increase

Given the City's current mix of services, Lafayette does not have the resources to fund additional police patrollers. The City is and has historically been "revenue deprived" when compared to other cities. Sales tax revenues in Lafayette, for instance, are limited by our residents' collective desire to maintain a small-town downtown ambiance.

(continued on page 2)

Ballot Language for November 3rd Municipal Election

The Lafayette City Council adopted a resolution on July 27th, 1998 calling for a municipal election. Voters will consider the following ballot language on November 3, 1998:

Measure V

"Special Three-Year Parcel Tax for Police Patrol Services"

Shall the City of Lafayette levy a special parcel tax of up to $92.00 per parcel for three years, beginning July 1, 1999, to be used solely to increase police patrol services? During the three-year period, the City will maintain existing funding levels for police services and develop long-term options for providing public safety in Lafayette.

POLICE MEASURE (continued from front page)

Lafayette's "main street" retail environment focuses on servicing residents' daily needs and not attracting regional shoppers. We do not have the "big-box" stores (like Costco or Home Depot) or the auto malls that produce so much sales tax revenue for our neighboring cities, nor has the community indicated a desire to attract such merchants.

Lafayette is also considered a "property-tax deprived" city, meaning that the City receives a lower proportion of property taxes paid by its homeowners than many other cities. Specifically, Lafayette receives only about 7% of the property taxes paid by its property owners while other cities often receive three times this amount, or 21%. Recognizing this disparity, the Lafayette City Council has aggressively sought relief from the State and, over the years, has made some progress. Before 1988, for instance, the City received none – 0% – of the property taxes paid by its residents.

Our disadvantageous position, however, has not dissuaded the City from exploring options for adding additional officers. Indeed, Lafayette has recently supplemented the police force by adding one "cop on a bike" to patrol the downtown area and one traffic enforcement officer to help control speeding in the neighborhoods.

The bicycle officer, however, is partially paid for by the State's "community oriented policing" (COP's) grant; the money cannot be used to supplant regular patrols. Bicycle patrols are archetypical of community oriented police practices, and Lafayette's bike patroller has been very successful in the downtown. He serves as a visible crime deterrent and has made several arrests over the past year.

As a means of balancing their own budget, the State of California chose to take revenue from traffic tickets away from cities in the early 1990's. Recent legislation, however, redirects a portion of the traffic ticket revenue back to the city where the ticket was written. Given this restored source of revenue, Lafayette has added a traffic enforcement officer who is assigned full-time to traffic enforcement duties throughout the City's neighborhoods. The traffic ticket revenue returned to the City, however, will not cover the entire cost of the officer and thus is not a potential source of revenue to fund additional officers.

Please call the City offices at 284-1968 if you have questions about the ballot measure.

HOW DOES LAFAYETTE COMPARE TO OTHER CITIES?

COMPARISON OF 1997 CRIME STATISTICS FOR LAFAYETTE, DANVILLE AND ORINDA

	Lafayette	Danville	Orinda
Est. Population	24,000	38,000	16,900
Sworn Officers	15	27	14
Citizens Per Officer	1,600	1,407	1,207
Calls for Service	18,217	31,142	14,173
Average Response Time (for all calls)	11.6 minutes	7.5 minutes	7.3 minutes
Murder	0	0	1
Manslaughter	0	0	0
Rape	1	3	0
Robbery	12	9	4
Agg. Assault	15	9	3
Burglary	245	203	80
Grand Theft	193	515	237
Auto Theft	25	34	10
Subtotal: Part One Crimes	491	773	335
Part One Crimes Per 1,000 Residents	20.5	20.3	19.8
Traffic Accident – Property – Injury	 327 39	 452 58	 104 12
Traffic Citations	1508	2343	859
DUI	56	191	48
Juvenile Diversion	239	133	65

Source: Contra Costa County Sheriff's Department

The table below shows a comparison of the number of officers per capita as between Lafayette and other cities in the County. The question arises: How much would additional police protection cost?

How Many Police Patrollers Are Enough?

Currently the City has a minimum staffing level of two patrollers. When one of these officers is engaged in transporting a person to the Martinez jail or is engaged in another activity, there may be only one officer actively patrolling the City. Is this level of police protection sufficient for Lafayette? Should more patrollers be added to the staff?

As the table on the left indicates, it is not definitively clear that adding additional patrollers will reduce crime. When "part one" (major) crimes per capita are compared for Lafayette, Orinda, and Danville, there is no significant difference between the communities – despite the staffing disparities.

How Much Does an Officer Cost?

The cost to add one patrol officer is – when all salary, benefits, insurance, equipment, and vehicle costs are totaled – about $105,000 per year and $115,000 for a segeant. These cost increase 3-5% annually. If Measure V is approved, the $782,000 in proceeds would thus cover the average annual cost of six officers, one sergeant, and their related expenses over the three year period.

COMPARISON OF LAW ENFORCEMENT STAFFING LEVELS IN CONTRA COSTA COUNTY[1]

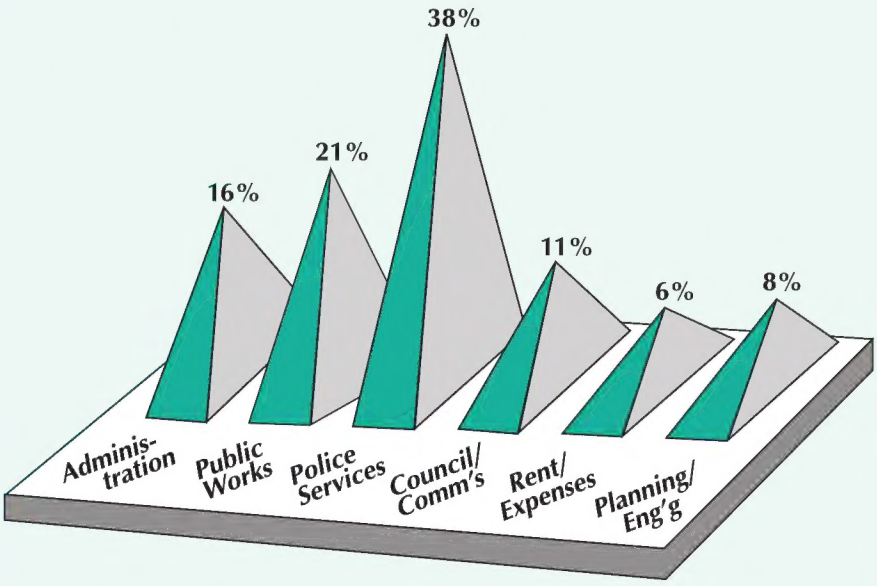
(Sorted by Cost Per Citizen)

	Population	Sworn Staff	FY 97/98 Budget	Citizens Per Officer	Cost Per Citizen
Richmond	93,000	186	$25,000,000	500	$268
San Pablo	26,000	41	5,864,370	634	225
Concord	115,000	158	24,444,513	728	212
Kensington	5,000	10	1,050,709	500	210
Pinole	18,150	24	3,620,000	756	199
Brentwood	14,515	20	2,868,128	725	197
El Cerrito	23,260	34	4,350,000	684	187
Walnut Creek	60,000	76	10,406,070	789	173
Martinez	35,000	37	5,579,457	945	159
Average				**900**	**151**
Pittsburg	54,117	73	7,712,508	741	143
Antioch	76,538	98	10,857,000	781	141
Pleasant Hill	35,000	43	4,767,850	814	136
Unincorporated	172,000	195	20,000,000	883	116
Hercules	21,000	21	2,341,188	1,000	111
San Ramon	41,000	34.5	4,400,000	1,188	107
Orinda	16,900	14	1,725,426	1,207	102
Clayton	10,000	10	937,510	1,000	93
Danville	38,020	27	3,519,539	1,408	92
Moraga	16,330	12	1,251,055	1,360	76
Lafayette	**24,000**	**13**	**1,818,794**	**1,846**	**75**
Lafayette[2]	**24,000**	**15**	**1,864,316**	**1,600**	**77**

[1]Source: 1997-98 Contra Costa County Grand Jury Report No. 9808, "Law Enforcement in Contra Costa County", approved 6/10/98.
[2]Editor's update to reflect the addition of 2 officers after completion of the Grand Jury survey.

Police Services in Lafayette

In fiscal year 1998-99, Lafayette will spend about 38% – or $1.9 million annually – of its general fund budget on police services.



The City contracts for most of its police services with Contra Costa County. The budget currently provides for equipment, investigation, SWAT, crime lab, and other services, and for the following personnel:

- One Police Chief
- One Sergeant
- Nine Patrollers
- One Traffic Enforcement Officer
- One Youth Diversion Officer
- One Bicycle Officer
- One Investigator (hourly)

At least two patrollers are always on duty. On weekdays, from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM, when the traffic enforcement officer, the youth diversion officer, and the bicycle officer are on duty, there may be up to or more than five sworn officers on duty.

During other shifts, when a patrol officer is engaged in an activity such as transporting and booking a suspect at the Martinez jail, Lafayette may be patrolled by one officer.

Reserve officers and other volunteers are also an important component of Lafayette's policing efforts. During the last three years, volunteer reserve officers have provided an average of 1,700 hours of annual service to the City – or the equivalent of about one additional full-time employee. Volunteers to the City's Crime Prevention and Emergency Preparedness Commissions have provided policy and program guidance for a variety of safety programs.

And it is anticipated that a new Volunteer Safety Patrol program will be launched this fall to walk the downtown area and report unusual or hazardous conditions.

For Police and Fire Emergencies, dial 911

City Directory

Leave your Council Members a message!
Call 284-1968

Council Members

		EXT.
Anne Grodin	**Mayor**	**273**
Erling Horn	**Vice Mayor**	**271**
Ivor Samson	**Council Member**	**272**
Jay Strauss	**Council Member**	**270**
Don Tatzin	**Council Member**	**274**

For messages to **all** Council Members: **907**

Administration

General Reception and	
Steven Falk, City Manager	**284-1968**
Rebecca Lee, Director	**299-3227**
Gonzalo Silva, Financial Srv. Mgr.	**299-3213**
Sue Jusaitis, City Clerk	**299-3212**
Donna Feehan, Accounting Assist.	**299-3226**
Celina Tomas, Accounting Assist.	**299-3249**

Community Development

Niroop Srivatsa, Director **299-3207**

- **Engineering Services**
  - Tony Coe, Manager **299-3203**
  - Farzaneh Sanders, Assoc. Engineer **299-3209**
  - Matt Luttropp, Assoc. Engineer **299-3247**
  - Mike Moran, Assist. Engineer **299-3245**
  - Julia DosSantos, Admin. Tech. **299-3240**
  - Rick Grimes, Engineering Tech. **299-3218**
- **Planning Services** **284-1976**
  - Mike Henn, Manager **Fax: 284-1122**
  - Betsy Van Popering, Senior Planner
  - Ashley Nguyen, Transportation Planner
  - Greg Wolff, Assistant Planner
  - JoAnn Contreras, Assistant Planner
- **Public Works Services**
  - Ron Lefler, Acting Manager **299-3244**

Lamorinda School Bus Program

Juliet Shanks, Analyst **284-1968**

Parks and Recreation **284-2232**

Jennifer Russell, Director
Brian McCooey, Coordinator
Yvonne Ozario, Senior Services **284-5050**

Police Services

Emergency: 24 Hours	**911**
Police Dispatch: 24 Hours	**284-5010**
Police Business Office:	**299-3220**
Hours:	**M-F: 8:00 – 12:00 & 1:00 – 5:00**

Addresses

Fax: 284-3169

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